

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Priority Application Serial No. ....09/620,745  
Priority Filing Date .....7/20/00  
Inventor..... Weise  
Priority Group Art Unit.....  
Priority Examiner .....  
Attorney's Docket No. ....MS1-543US  
Title: Ranking Parser for a Natural Language Processing System

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

To: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D.C. 20231

From: Kasey C. Christie (Tel. 509-324-9256; Fax 509-323-8979)  
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**In the Specification:**

**Page 3, line 2:** replace “intelligible language” with “syntactical and meaning representations”.

**Page 12:**

- line 5: replace “modify phrase” with “modifying subphrase”.
- line 23: insert the following paragraph:

Lemma of Headwords. The syntactic and semantic behavior of a headword is often independent of its *inflectional* morphology. For example, the verbs “walks”, “walking”, and “walked” are derived from the verb “walk”. The transitivity of a verb is independent of such inflection.